NIGHTMARE IN SCARLET! 3 of 3
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MARVEL
SPIDER-MAN GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WEB OF SCARLET SPIDER
LAST ISSUE!
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WHO SAYS PEOPLE DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO TELEVISION ADVERTISING ANYMORE ?
NOT MORE THAN THIRTY SECONDS AGO, A METALLIC MONSTROSITY CALLING ITSELF THE SCARLET SPIDER TOOK FIVE PEOPLE HOSTAGE ON LIVE TV..
... INVITING THE WORLD TO GUESS WHICH CAPTIVE HE WOULD KILL FIRST!*
AND JUST LOOK AT THE RESPONSE. NOT ONLY ARE SPIDER-MAN AND THE NEW WARRIORS RACING TO THE SCENE AT TOP SPEED...
* AS SEEN IN NEW WARRIORS #67! --ERIC
... BUT SPEEDBALL, WHOSE MOTHER IS AMONG THOSE HELD HOSTAGE, HAS ALREADY REACHED THE CHAOTIC TV STUDIO BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY'S WALL STREET FINANCIAL DISTRICT!
NOW THAT'S EFFECTIVE ADVERTISING.
BUT, AS EVEN VIEWERS WHO COMPULSIVELY USE THE "MUTE" SWITCH CAN PROBABLY TELL...

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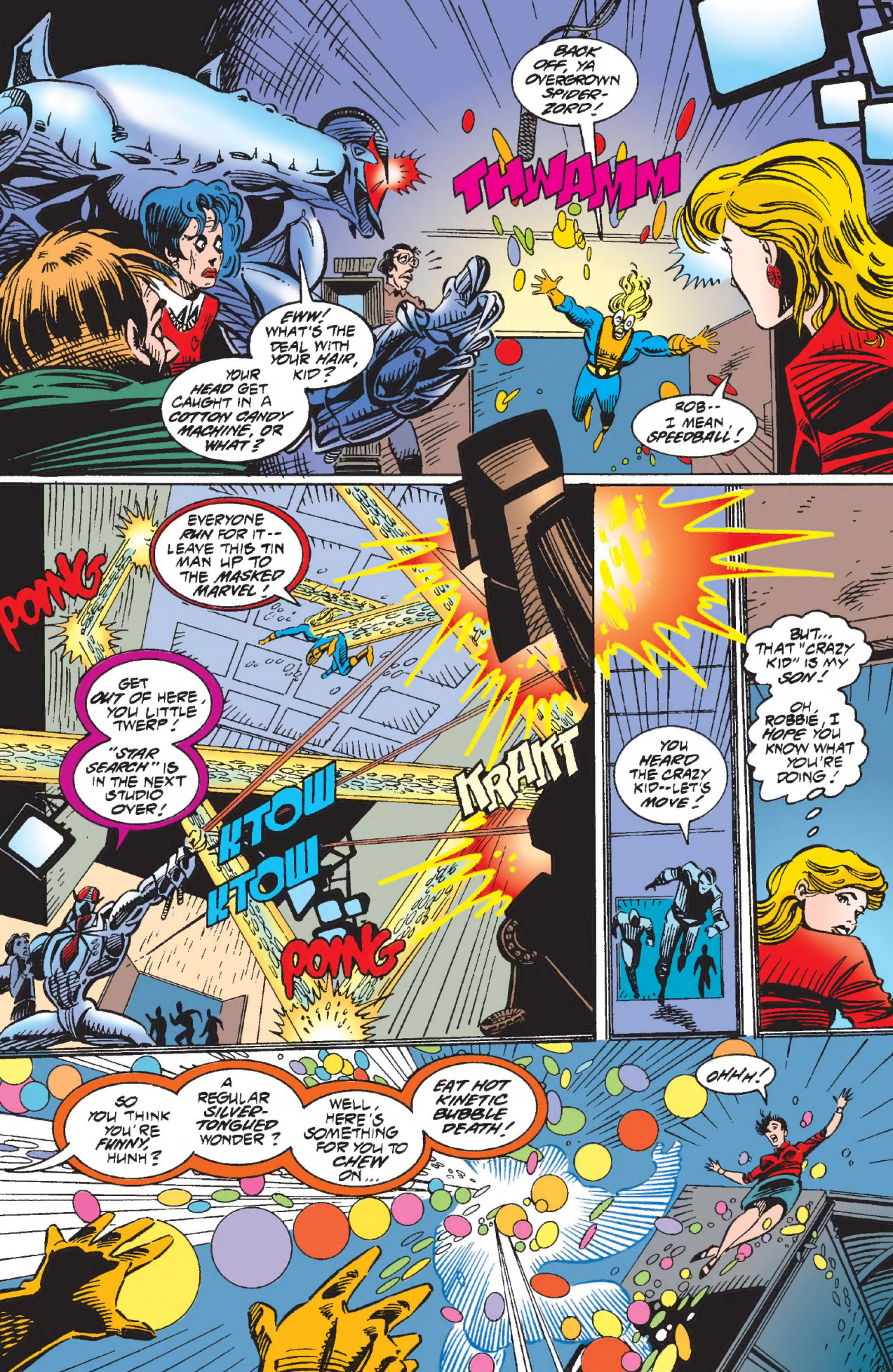

BACK OFF, YA OVERGROWN SPIDER-ZORD!
THWAMM
EWW! WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH YOUR HAIR, KID?
YOUR HEAD GET CAUGHT IN A COTTON CANDY MACHINE, OR WHAT?
ROB-- I MEAN, SPEEDBALL!
POING
EVERYONE RUN FOR IT-- LEAVE THIS TIN MAN UP TO THE MASKED MARVEL!
GET OUT OF HERE, YOU LITTLE TWERP!
"STAR SEARCH" IS IN THE NEXT STUDIO OVER!
KTOW
KTOW
POING
KRAKT
YOU HEARD THE CRAZY KID--LET'S MOVE!
BUT... THAT "CRAZY KID" IS MY SON!
OH, ROBBIE, I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
SO YOU THINK YOU'RE FUNNY, HUNH?
A REGULAR SILVER-TONGUED WONDER?
WELL, HERE'S SOMETHING FOR YOU TO CHEW ON...
EAT HOT KINETIC BUBBLE DEATH!
OHHH!

MIDTOWN... THE FBI'S NEW YORK OFFICES...
LET'S MOVE!
THIS HOSTAGE SITUATION HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH OUR AGENT JOE WADE'S DISAPPEARANCE... I'M SURE OF IT!
I WANT EVERY AVAILABLE AGENT DOWN THERE, PRONTO!
WILL DO, MR. STONE.
WE'RE TAKING THAT SCARLET SPIDER CHARACTER IN-- AND I WANT HIM ALIVE!
WAIT, MORRISON-- DON'T CALL BRIGGS IN. SHE'S TOO... CLOSE TO ALL OF THIS.
OOOKAY...
NOW LET'S ROLL!
SCREEEE

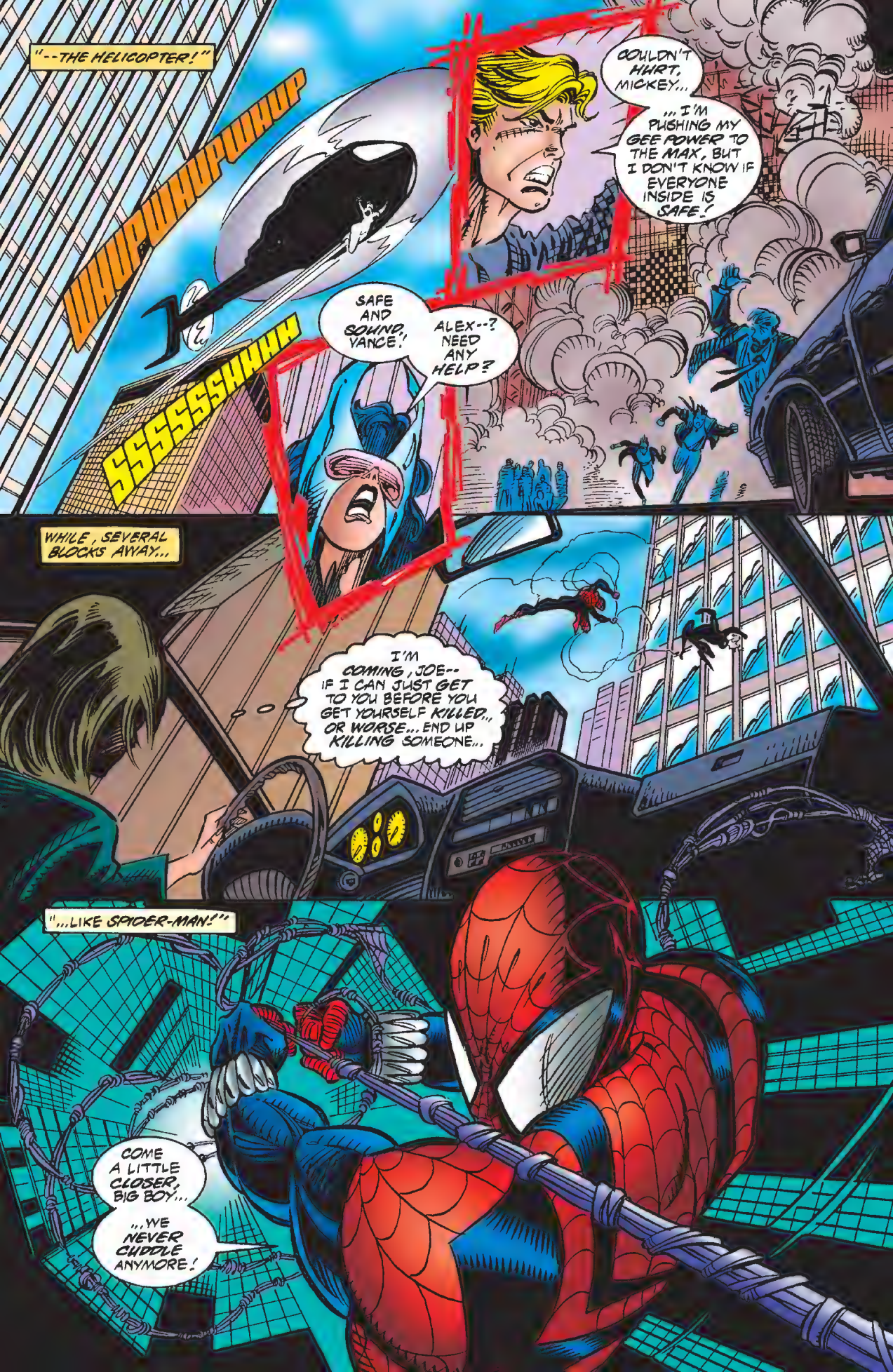
WEEOOEE
ELSEWHERE...
COME ON, BRIGGS... MOVE IT!
THIS MAY BE THE LAST CHANCE YOU'RE GOING TO GET TO SAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR PARTNER.
HAVE TO GET IT CLEAR IN MY HEAD FIRST... PLAY IT ALL BACK.
JOE WADE WAS ASSIGNED UNDERCOVER DUTY WITHIN DOCTOR OCTOPUS'S CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION...
...BUT HE WAS DISCOVERED AND FORCED BY DOC OCK TO RUN THE HOLOGRAPHICALLY PROJECTED VERSION OF THE SCARLET SPIDER, AS OCK WORKED TO RUIN THE REPUTATION OF THE REAL SCARLET SPIDER!
WHEN DOC OCK'S HEADQUARTERS BLEW UP, JOE WENT MISSING AND WE THOUGHT HE WAS PROBABLY DEAD.
BUT NOW I KNOW... THE EXPLOSION SOMEHOW FUSED JOE TO THE VIRTUAL REALITY SETUP AND INFECTED HIM WITH A PAINFUL, DEGENERATIVE NERVE DISEASE...
...AND IT ALSO INFECTED HIM WITH NANOTECH BITS WHICH STAVE OFF HIS NERVE DISEASE, BUT AT THE COST OF TURNING HIM INTO THE NEW, EVIL SCARLET SPIDER!
HONK
SCREEEE
I'VE GOT TO TRY TO REACH JOE SOMEHOW... HELP HIM DEFEAT THE SCARLET SPIDER INFECTION BEFORE IT MAKES HIM DO SOMETHING TRULY HORRIBLE...
...AND BEFORE NELSON STONE GETS HIS SLIMY HANDS ON JOE AND TURNS HIM INTO AN FBI LAB RAT!
WEEOOEE
RRRT

WHAT'S THAT? NOW THE CAMERAS HAVE GONE DARK?
CHIEF, WE'RE HERE TO TAKE THAT LUNATIC OUT AND SAVE THE HOSTAGES.
HAS ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENED THAT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?
NOT MORE OF YOU SUPER-TIGHTS-- WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE!
SIR, THE SCARLET SPIDER IS OUR PROBLEM, AND WE INTEND TO DEAL WITH IT!
WE'VE GOT WAYS OF HELPING THAT YOU PROBABLY DON'T EVEN--
LOOK, PAL, I'M NOT THE ONE WHO NEEDS HELP!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
Y'KNOW, THE MORE I LISTEN TO YOU, SPIDER-MAN... THE MORE I THINK I KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE!
IF YOU DON'T NEED OUR HELP, THEN WHO DOES?!
THE GUY WHO'S ALREADY UP THERE!
SOME JERK WHO'S TRYING TO PLAY HERO!
WHO--?

TH-CHOOM
HIM.
BASEBALL SEASON'S LONG OVER, SPEEDY-- TIME TO DUST OFF YOUR SNAPPY PATTER!
HOOO-LY COW!
IT'S A LINE DRIVE, RIGHT UP THE MIDDLE!
MIGHT'A HURT, TOO, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR MY HANDY-DANDY KINETIC FIELD!
UH... LITTLE HELP?
TURBO?
I GOT IT! I GOT IT!
"IT"?
YOU CAN CRITICIZE SPEEDBALL'S JOKES ALL YOU WANT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE GOT THE JOB DONE...
'CAUSE THERE'S THE SCARLET SPIDER, AND HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY MORE HOSTAGES!
GOOD-- THEN WE CAN FINALLY CUT LOOSE ON THIS... THIS...
SAY IT...

...DON'T SPRAY IT!
LOOK OUT-- HE'S FIRING OFF ANOTHER SONIC BLAST-- AHHRR!
WHUMMMMMMMMMM
TRYING TO MOVE IN FOR A BETTER SHOT--
--WHOOA!
MAYDAY! MAYDAY!
WE'VE BEEN HIT BY SOME KIND OF CONCUSSION WAVE!

OOOH, JUST LOOK THE TIME!
I'M RUNNING LATE FOR MY FACIAL!
SORRY TO LEAVE YOU HOME ALONE, KIDS, BUT I'VE REALLY GOT TO--
THWIP
--FLY?
WHAT'S THIS? AN UNINVITED PASSENGER?
WE DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO STOWAWAYS ON THIS AIRLINE, BUDDY!
NAH? HOW ABOUT HIJACKERS, THEN?
'CAUSE I'M TAKING THIS "PLANE" DOWN!
I'VE GOT THE FALLING DEBRIS! NOW...
POWERHOUSE--DEGRAVITIZE THE BUILDING BEFORE IT COLLAPSES!
FIRESTAR, SPEEDY--SEE TO THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE INSIDE!
THRBO--


"--THE HELICOPTER!"
WHUPWHUPWHUP
SSSSSSHHHH
COULDN'T HURT, MICKEY...
...I'M PUSHING MY GEE POWER TO THE MAX, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF EVERYONE INSIDE IS SAFE!
SAFE AND SOUND, YANCE!
ALEX--? NEED ANY HELP?
WHILE, SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY...
I'M COMING, JOE-- IF I CAN JUST GET TO YOU BEFORE YOU GET YOURSELF KILLED... OR WORSE... END UP KILLING SOMEONE...
"...LIKE SPIDER-MAN!"
COME A LITTLE CLOSER, BIG BOY...
...WE NEVER CUDDLE ANYMORE!

DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR HOW THIS HAPPENED, BUT I SWEAR...
...THIS NIGHTMARE ENDS HERE AND NOW!
HEY, IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT...
...IF YOU DIDN'T EAT SO LATE, YOU WOULDN'T BE HAVING NIGHTMARES!
HEE HEEHEE HEEHEE HEE!
YEAH, LAUGH IT UP, TEFLON BOY...
...YOU'RE ABOUT TO PAY FOR COPYING MY OLD COSTUME... STEALING MY FORMER NAME... AND WRECKING MY REPUTATION!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHOA-- YOUR HEAD!
YOW!
DWEEE
NEVER MIND MY HEAD...

...IF YOU USED TO BE THE SCARLET SPIDER, THEN IT'S YOUR HEAD WE SHOULD BE TALKING ABOUT!
BECAUSE NOW I'M GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE IT...
...ON A SILVER PLATTER!
HMM... THAT WASN'T THE REACTION I WAS HOPING FOR.
WAIT--HIS EYES STARTING TO SPARK AGAIN--PREPARING TO UNLEASH SOME KIND OF--
THWUP
THWUP
SHRAK
--LIGHT BURST!
SPIDER-SENSE WARNED ME IN TIME, BUT THE FLASH BURNED RIGHT THROUGH MY EYELIDS!
I'M... BLIND!
S'MATTER, "SPIDEY"? CAN'T STAND BEING IN THE LIMELIGHT?

HUNNH!
THWAK!
YOU WANNA BE A BIG STAR, MAN, YOU'D BETTER GET USED TO THE PAPARAZZI!
AND THOSE PHOTOGS JUST LOVE THEIR FLASHBULBS, DON'T THEY?
FALLING-- CAN'T SEE TO FIRE A WEBLINE!
UNLESS THOSE SCREECHING BRAKES I HEAR BELONG TO A BIG HAY TRUCK--
--I'M ABOUT TO BECOME THE AMAZING SPIDER-PIZZA!
RRRRT!
OH, MY GOD, I'M TOO LATE!
JOE JUST KILLED--

SPIDER-MAN?!
I THOUGHT YOU HAD THIS WHOLE "WEB-SLINGING" THING DOWN TO A SCIENCE! ISN'T IT LIKE RIDING A BIKE?
ANGEL... THANK GOD...
AW, NO! I DID IT AGAIN!
"ANGEL"?
YOU, UH, MUST BE AN ANGEL...
UH-HUH RIGHT.
AND AFTER I BUY THAT LINE...
...TELL ME AGAIN ABOUT THAT GREAT DEAL YOU'VE GOT ON THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE--
FIRESTAR, LOOK OUT!
I CAN'T SEE, BUT THERE'S DANGER--

MIND IF I CUT IN?
HEE HEEHEE HEEHEE HEE!
WHUNH!
ARRGK!
FIRESTAR-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
FIRESTAR!
uuuuuh...

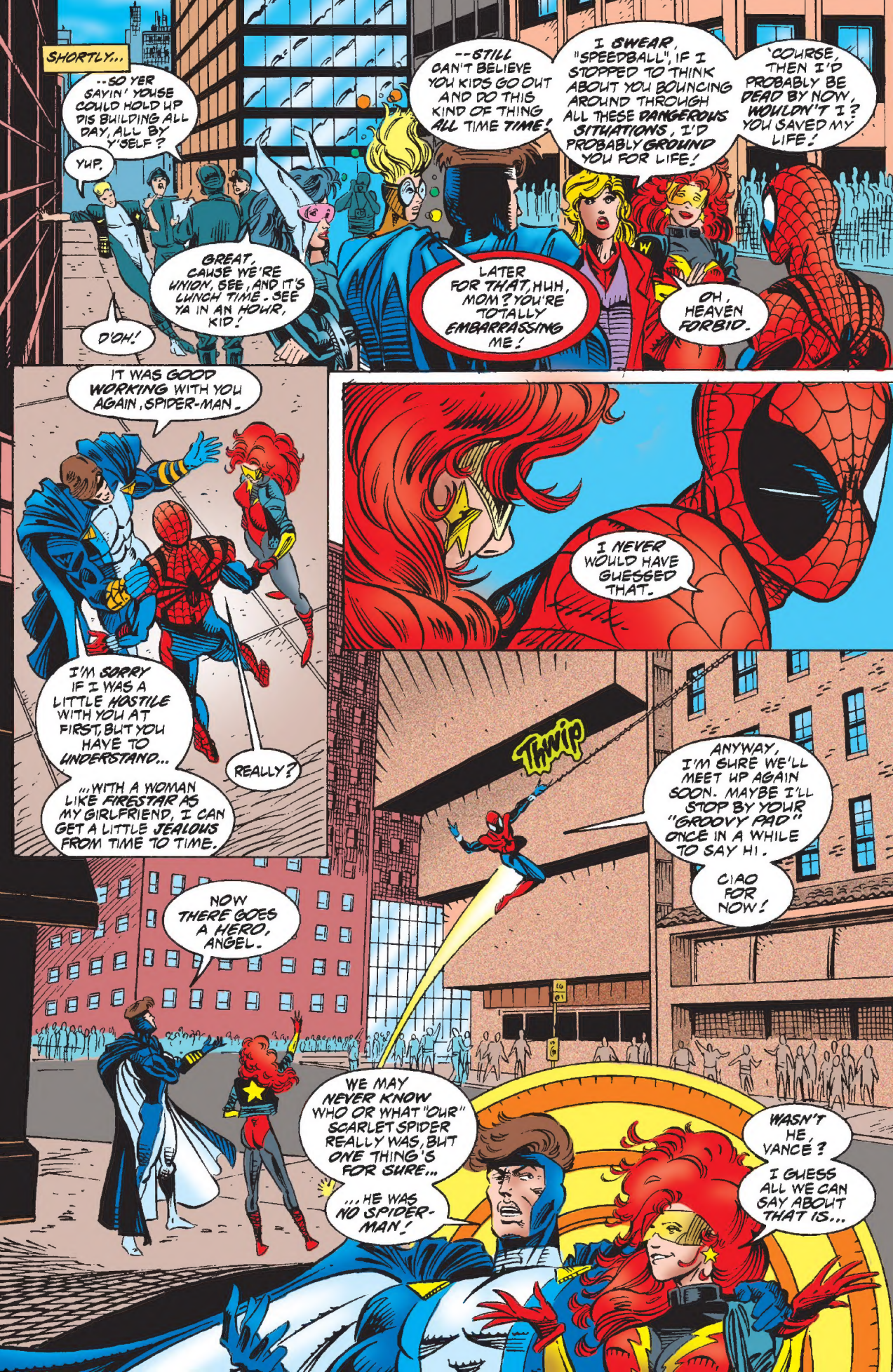
NO!
GOOD GOD! THEY'RE GONNA HIT--
--HARD!
WHA--?
SLOWING DOWN--?
THE THIRD ONE'S STILL FALLING--
--LOOK OUT!
KROOM

LIQUORS
UNNH... J-JOE...
...S-SO SORRY... I TRIED...
IS EVERYONE OKAY?
EVERYONE BUT THAT METALLIC MONSTER, JUSTICE. HE'S HAD IT.
I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT, RED.
MY GOD, YOU'RE RIGHT...
...HE SURVIVED!
NICE TO KNOW YOU CARE, FOLKS.
ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION...
HE'S BUILDING UP TO ANOTHER SONIC BLAST!
EVERYONE STAY BEHIND ME! I'LL BE ABLE TO AT LEAST DAMPEN THE IMPACT!
YOU HEARD THE KID--FALL BACK!
NO... THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH...
...HASN'T IT, JOE?
MA'AM, ARE YOU CRAZY? HE'S ABOUT TO--
WAIT-- WHO'S JOE? YOU KNOW WHO'S INSIDE THERE?

JOE'S A BRAVE MAN, SPIDER-MAN.
HE'S A GOOD MAN... AND HE'S STRONGER THAN HE THINKS.
ONLY... ONLY WHEN I FORGET TO USE DEODORANT...
JOE, LOOK AT ME! I'M BLEEDING... AGENT TORREZ OVER THERE ISN'T MOVING!
YOU HURT US, JOE!
DOESN'T THAT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU ANYMORE?
LADY, IF HE CUTS LOOSE WITH THAT SONIC BLAST...
THEN YOU'LL KILL THE ONLY FRIEND YOU'VE GOT LEFT.
NO PAIN IN THE WORLD CAN BE WORSE THAN THAT, JOE. NOT EVEN THE PAIN THAT TURNS YOU INTO THE SCARLET SPIDER.
YOU'VE GOT TO FACE THE PAIN, JOE... BEFORE IT MAKES YOU HURT ANYONE ELSE.
PLEASE.
I PROMISE I'LL BE THERE TO FACE IT WITH YOU.

HUNNH HUNNH HUNH HARGK
AHUNNH AHUNNH HURGGK
UNNF ARRGH
DID IT, STEPH-- BUT--
--IT HURTS!
HUNH HUNH HUNH
IT
HURTSSS.
I KNOW.

MY GOD, VINCE--YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
NO, UH--LET'S SEE--I SAY WE JUST GET HIM TO SINAI AND LET THE DOCS FIGURE IT OUT--
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, PEOPLE. THIS IS OFFICIAL FBI BUSINESS.
OUR ROGUE AGENT IS UNDER CONTROL, NOW... WELL DONE, AGENT BRIGGS.
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
WAIT A MINUTE--THAT'S IT?
WHO WAS HE--HOW DID ALL OF THIS HAPPEN? HOW DOES IT CONNECT TO DOCTOR OCT--
ALL CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, I'M AFRAID.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP "HEROES," BUT THAT'S AS MUCH AS I CAN TELL YOU.
AND HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THIS WON'T HAPPEN TO "JOE" AGAIN?
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT--WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN FOR HIM.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, STONE...
...BECAUSE I'LL BE THERE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY TO MAKE SURE YOU DO.


SHORTLY...
--SO YER SAYIN' YOUSE COULD HOLD UP DIS BUILDING ALL DAY, ALL BY Y'SELF?
YUP.
GREAT, CAUSE WE'RE UNION, SEE, AND IT'S LUNCH TIME. SEE YA IN AN HOUR, KID!
D'OH!
--STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU KIDS GO OUT AND DO THIS KIND OF THING ALL TIME TIME!
I SWEAR, "SPEEDBALL", IF I STOPPED TO THINK ABOUT YOU BOUNCING AROUND THROUGH ALL THESE DANGEROUS SITUATIONS, I'D PROBABLY GROUND YOU FOR LIFE!
'COURSE, THEN I'D PROBABLY BE DEAD BY NOW, WOULDN'T I? YOU SAVED MY LIFE!
LATER FOR THAT, HUH, MOM? YOU'RE TOTALLY EMBARRASSING ME!
OH, HEAVEN FORBID.
IT WAS GOOD WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN, SPIDER-MAN.
I'M SORRY IF I WAS A LITTLE HOSTILE WITH YOU AT FIRST, BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND...
...WITH A WOMAN LIKE FIRESTAR AS MY GIRLFRIEND, I CAN GET A LITTLE JEALOUS FROM TIME TO TIME.
REALLY?
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT.
Thwip
ANYWAY, I'M SURE WE'LL MEET UP AGAIN SOON. MAYBE I'LL STOP BY YOUR "GROOVY PAD" ONCE IN A WHILE TO SAY HI.
CIAO FOR NOW!
NOW THERE GOES A HERO, ANGEL.
WE MAY NEVER KNOW WHO OR WHAT "OUR" SCARLET SPIDER REALLY WAS, BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE...
...HE WAS NO SPIDER-MAN!
WASN'T HE, VANCE?
I GUESS ALL WE CAN SAY ABOUT THAT IS...

"...TIME WILL TELL!"
THE BEGINNING!
RK.RE.'95